

The Brethren Evangelist,

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Editorial.

CHRISTMAS.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest.

He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins.

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men.

The Angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them.

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

They shall call his name Emmanuel, which, being interpreted, is, God with us.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

There shall come forth a Star out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.

The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me, unto him ye shall hearken.

The Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL THE READERS OF THE EVANGELIST.

THIS paper will reach our readers a few days before Christmas. Through its pages we send greetings, words of cheer, comfort, joy and gladness, which we hope will brighten your hearts and help you keep this the gladdest of all days, properly and happily.

WE have endeavored to fill this paper with such matter that will direct the thoughts of the reader to the child Jesus, the born King and Saviour of the world. We trust the readers of the paper will find rich thought for meditation in the various articles on the Advent, the Incarnation, etc.

Do you give presents to your friends at Christmas? Amid your joys and festivities do not forget your pastor. He has been faithful in his arduous labors, going in and out among his people and looking after the interests of immortal souls. Can you give him some little token of your appreciation and recognition of his labors?

THE story of Jesus never grows old. The little child sings the sweet songs that tell of the little babe as he came into this world, accompanied by the angelic host. It hears the story with gladness and loves the child Jesus, because He too was a child. What sacred associations cluster about this festal day. It is one of those days in whose joys all share, even those who do not believe in the name of Him whose birth we celebrate.

You are familiar, we hope you are, with the story of the Christ-child. You know of his birth, which we are about to celebrate. You are acquainted with the associations that accompanied the advent of the Christ into this world of sin and sorrow. That which impresses us most of all and fills our hearts with wonder, is what this Christ has done for us. As we recount these blessings, our hearts fill with joy and gladness, and we join with the angelic host, "Glory to God in the highest."

CHRISTMAS day brings many happy thoughts to us—pleasant remembrances and associations to our homes. It is a great day for the little folks; father's and mothers hearts are made glad because of the joy that comes to their children. But amid these joys and pleasant remembrances, there also come thoughts of sadness and sorrow. There are vacant chairs in many homes, sweet voices are silent, lips closed, and the noise of prattling feet are heard no more. The Christ child alone can fill the vacancies in our hearts made by these losses.

THE YEAR 1895.

Before another issue of this paper reaches our readers, the year 1895 will be known only in history. Its record is made. Its events have come and gone. As we stand on the threshold of another year, it is well that we turn about and take a look backward. Can we change the record? There are somethings which, if they are not as they should have been, it is possible for us to undo. Wrongs can be made right. Things that we have left undone, there may yet be time to do. But there are two things which we cannot do. We cannot change the past, and say it was not. We can make a wrong right, but we will never be able to say that the wrong was not done. If you have spoken a harsh word—a word that has caused a wound in some heart, you may recall that word, but its influence never. It has gone on its way and eternity alone will reveal its final result. The same is true of other things. Again, if you have left undone, that which should have been done, while you may yet have time to perform the neglected duty, you will never do it *during the year* that is past. You may have similar opportunities, and make use of them, but had you seized the opportunity when it came, greater ones would now come to you, and larger fields of usefulness open before you.

But whatever may have been the failures of the past, we should humbly accept the lesson they teach us, and go on, careful not to repeat the same errors in the future. What is the record of 1895? How far have you advanced in knowledge, in grace, in truth, in usefulness? Remember that your life is not measured by years only, but by what you have done for God, for the church, and humanity. There are those who have lived three score years and ten and yet when measured by God's standard they are not yet a year old. Your *real* life begins when you are born, not the first time, but when born the *second* time. When your soul is regenerated and you begin the service for God. Measured by this standard, how old are you to-day? Look back over your past life, think of the time when you began to live for God and Christ. How long is it? A year, two, five, ten, fifty? Then what is your record measured by the divine standard? Or have you not yet begun the life that counts for time and eternity? Are you still living as though the measure of years was the end? In all your calculations do not forget to